

J. D. Perkins
Fort Defiance, Ariz. Ter
1880. Feb. 14.

Mr. J. D. Perkins.

Fort Defiance, Arizona Terry.
Feb - 14th 1880.

Mrs. Haines.

Dear Friend and Sister -

As you are
away we left Santa Fe on the 20th of
Jan. After a very pleasant journey of
~~fourteen~~^{fifteen} days we reached this, our new
field of labor, on the 4th of this month.
I can not here enumerate all the kind
favors we received by the way. The A. T. and
S. F. R. R. charged only 1/2 rate on goods.
To Albuquerque. Pres. Smith of the Atlantic
and Pacific R. R. passed us 100 miles
to the end of his road. Goods and all
free of charge. The Military gave us a
free ride from the end of the R. R.
to Fort Wingate a distance of 55 miles
where we met Capt. Bennett - the acting
agent of the Navajos - who received us
most kindly. Gen. Bradley did all he
could for us. gave us a government

ambulance, four mules and a driver to
take us to our destination. Arriving here
Capt. Bennett did and has done all
he could to make us comfortable and
we feel confident that he will do all that
can be done for our school in the future.
Being the recipient of so many favors
and being blessed by Providence with de-
lightful weather our trip was one of pleas-
ure from beginning to end. We sincerely
hope that our labor so favorably com-
menced, will continue and success crown
our labor. Much good being done and God's
glory advanced here among the Navajos.
I got one of your letters to my wife you
speak of our contract with Dr. Jackson
and of not knowing just what it was.
Our understanding of it is this. My
wife and I were to be commissioned as
teachers with a salary of \$600. each
and traveling expenses to our new
field. We advised us to take all things
necessary for house-keeping and a good
supply of provisions. Our freight there

for amounted to 4000. pounds. Traveling
in this Country is expensive. We estimated
our expense of moving would be \$300.
and made application for that amount.
of the Home Board who granted us \$250.
Our expenses amounted to \$189.75
had we received no favors from the R.R.
Government and Government officials our
expenses would have been \$304.88. but
by those favors we saved \$115.08. In
November I received a telegram from
Dr. Jackson to the effect, that we
were commissioned to this work and
as I had been waiting nearly two months
previous to receiving the telegram I
trust our Commission will at least
be dated from the 1st of December.
I make this matter distinct that there
may be no misunderstanding.
When it was decided that we should
come to this work we should have been
glad to have come before the cold
weather.

In regard to our work. - we began to-day

we opened school with 10. scholars.
5. Indians. 1 half Indian. 3 white boys
and our fottie. During the day we
had I think as many as 30. Indians
but we could not count as scholars
more than the ten. Not much of a
school can be built up until
we can board and cloth the chil-
dren which we can not do at
present. And perhaps not before
the new school-house is finished.

In regard to present needs we can
not yet write but will by the next mail.

I wish you would show this letter to
Dr. Randall as that will save me writ-
ing the substance to him.

Most respectfully your obedt servant
J. D. Perkins

4th

of money and with this four I
think from what I can learn of
them that I can have the clothing
taken care of, the washing
done, and part of the cooking.
With the \$500⁰⁰ for Watson such as Dr
Jackson has taken from here to Albu-
querque. must have from the begin-
ning a man and woman to wait
upon her. She was brought here by
Dr Jackson to help us and never was
a family more imposed upon. He
wanted me to take her to Fort Defiance,
Where we learned how indulgent she was
and how unfit to train young girls we
wrote him that we could not have her and
that he must relieve us of her. The two
months she was in my family she never
mended a garment, darned a stocking
helped wash or comb the children.

Santa Fe. New Mex. 12-29-1880.

My Dear Mrs Haines,

Your letter of the 22nd at hand. I hasten to write you at once in reply. Our duties at Santa Fe closed with the Christmas Tree, on last Friday. The new Teachers Mr and Mrs McCaughey have been here for some time. We have many household goods packed at and at the Depot. Mr Perkins thinks there would be much unnecessary delay in his making the second trip, and feels satisfied that he could make us comfortable in a measure, and that he would gain time and influence in having us with him. Whilst he is preparing a place for us we can be visiting among the women and children. This is very important work and the sooner we come into

personal acquaintance with them
the better. We take carpets and bed-
ding ^{enough} for the present. We are determin-
ed to keep our wants in narrow bounds,
and go there determined to do our part
in establishing a school that shall be
with the masters help the beginning of
great things for the Cause of Christ!
The out look for us from a selfish
standpoint is not very encouraging,
but we will aim to make our home
life as cozy, comfortable and as worthy
of imitation ^{as} we passibly can.
Dr Jackson promised me the Matron
position for my sister Mrs McMahon
now in Seneca Falls New York, if we would
take the school. We wrote her concern-
ing the same before ^{we} promised Dr Jackson
to take the school receiving as reply
that she would come in the Spring
if her health which is now very poor
indeed, permits her coming. until
that time we will get along

with the matrons duties. My sis-
ter has had a large experience among
indian children as Matron in the S.C.
School at Mount Joy Lancaster Co
Penna also at McAlisterville
Juniata Co Penna. I would not like
to take any lady as Matron into a
school that I felt responsible for who
has not had experience as a matron,
eg. As Dr Jackson promised me either an
experienced Matron or the privilege of
training Navajo women and girls
for the duties of Matron. I regard the
matter settled. These women can
be trained for household duties &
this is a good time to try the experi-
ment. If Miss Phillips is already com-
missioned I have nothing fur-
ther to say. \$500.⁰⁰ per year is
too much in my opinion for
a Matron ^{at the commencement} in my opinion I
can employ four good
Navajo women with that amount

P.S.

You may think it advisable to send Miss Phillips as a teacher, I hear she is a good teacher. We will be glad to see her and have no doubt but that she would do well as a teacher. The weather is very cold.

Our school here is very interesting. We have had a joyous Christmas. The children have all had a grand time. We are learning the Navajo language. We took up the study of it two weeks ago. We confine our evenings to it. Our friend Mr. Irving used to be Indian Agent at Fort Defiance. We visit him for information. He understands the language. We have the Vocabulary of Rev. Donaldson to study from. Willie learns easily. I know twenty words well. Mrs. Perkins

I had three ^{Indian} children from
Isletia in the family
keeping them until the
school would be opened

5th one time. My family was large
and some times as she came to
meals with her untidy garments
and hair in hair pins it seemed
as though it was a misuse of the
funds of the Master to pay such a
woman \$50.00 when much more
work can be accomplished
with so much less money. Miss
Fletcher could not sew, would not
wash or bake, and had not the
first single qualification for a
Matron, and yet she is a very
good girl. I think would do to
superintend a dining room or
kitchen where some one else
did the work. Now my dear
Mrs Haines in this country where
we have no experienced help.
We must of necessity put our

own hands to the work, and
with the determination to teach
those poor ignorant women,
pray for grace and patience, to
do the will of Christ. Now my crop
has been the heaviest when with
much patience and many efforts I
have impressed those in the school
with the importance of well combed
hair and clean person and cloth-
ing, to have come into my family a
lady to occupy the position of Matron
who would come to break fast and
dinner with ^{and hair in hair pins} soiled ~~filthy~~ ^{filthy} in place of
clean neat suitable clothing, such
as the Mexican women and Indians
two might take worthy example
from. We have just returned to
day from the Indian Village of
Ye Shupe where we went to learn
more of the Indian life.

I wish we had known of this
change when we were at

ch
up
e
d
e
y
in
y
e
is
as
as
is
this summer it would
have been better to have
left Willie East in some
good school for boys, as it is
he will be of great use to us, but
will not be benefited himself.
You cannot wonder with my
experience recently that I am not
willing to have any other than
an experienced person of my own
choice, or else Navajo women that
can be trained. Persons who are or
have been teachers are not suitable
for matrons. They are too nervous
and exacting to train girls to house
hold duties with neatness and
dispatch. We have just received a Post Card
from D Jackson urging our making a
beginning at Fort Defiance as soon as
as convenient. We hope to be ready to
go at your direction.

Sincerely,

Mrs. J. D Perkins,

Santa Fe New Mex. 12th 20th 1880.

Mr. J. D. Perkins -

Dear Messrs. Perkins,

Mr. Perkins requests me to say to you that he has been ready and willing for six weeks - ever since Dr. Jackson made plans to ~~the~~ engage his services, some time prior to his last visit to Washington and New York. Dr. Jackson has been waiting I think for orders from Washington. Of this I am not sure. Mr. Perkins wishes to say to you that he will take a little store, some carpet a sofa bed & sufficient bedding to make us comfortable, and that we go with willing hearts and that although the way looks dear we will make the most of it. We do not quite understand Dr. Jackson's movements. He is willing to pay Miss Fletcher \$800⁰⁰ per year for such services as can be gotten here for one half that amount, and only of Mr. Perkins \$600⁰⁰ for teaching and superintending the building and saw mill. 1000⁰⁰ is a small salary for a man of Mr.

Perkins skill. He is a practical Smelter &
Assayer, and has offers of ~~\$24~~ \$2500⁰⁰₁₀₀
per annum. I am anxious to go and
establish the school at Fort Defiance
but I am of his opinion that \$1000
per year is only a small salary and
that the services of no man of true
interest should be expected to work for
less. We have so many guests and are
expected to entertain so many people.
Could you send us each a pair of
very warm gloves for winter I cannot
give you the sizes. Largest size for men
I prefer mittens for myself. These things
are very expensive here and of poor
quality. Charge the amount to our
account.

Sincerely,

Wm J. D. Perkins,

show Miss P. so you will see how we could
not let her go from us willingly. Mr Perkins
has been trying to find our goods which
left Santa Fe before we did. They report them
now only thirty six miles from here but in
a broken car. We are growing impatient
to be off. We took for the goods to night. L. J.
and wife came in on Tuesday morning
with sixteen Indian children. They have
had a hard trip. No one but he could have
gotten those children, and he managed so
well too. Our minister at Missilla was a-
fraid to have him bring the children
through the town. The Mexican people
feeling so angry on account of the
Indians having killed two ^{Mexican} men and
two women mutilating their bodies very much.
But the W. with his strong faith in the
Lord kept on his way, and was brought
through in safety. At San Marcial

Mrs. Perkins
from Albuquerque Jan 25th 1881

Albuquerque, N. M., Jan 25th 1881.

Dear Mrs. Heines,

We received a letter from Mr. Kendall on the 16th relative to our going to Defiance cheerfully. It seemed to us uncalled for, but we have learned to accept the situation, and do the best we can, and we now receive no more at censure than at applause, but keep right on doing our best. We are en route for our new work having left nothing behind. All we have and are on on the "Atlas" we have kept back nothing. We spoke regretfully of leaving Santa Fe. Our relations there were very pleasant, and our school becoming more and more interesting. The only objection I have ever had to the work in Santa Fe was that I had not sufficient money to carry on the work as I thought it ought to be. We did not know we should find it so hard to leave the children and their

mothers, and that they should dislike so much
to have us go. I hope I shall not become
so much attached to a school again
and be called away. The ties are all bro-
ken now that bound us, and we have new
hopes and aims, and whilst we go cheerfully
to our new work, and feel sure the dear Lord will
give us ~~a~~ success according to our work, we ~~are~~
have ~~our~~ anxious hearts as to the success of
the Santa Fe school. We are very much interest-
ed in the Mexican women and girls, and
will always rejoice in hearing of school be-
ing established for them. On the 17th we received
a telegram from Miss Phillips asking ^{us} her
to meet her on the evening of the 19th at Defoe.
We were glad to have the two days of rest and
time to get off in better shape. We were in-
tending to start two days earlier. We were glad
to meet Miss Phillips, and Miss Verbeek, and
felt very well satisfied that she was going to
Fort Defiance, as we think she will
make a very good mission. When
we came here however Miss Shields

ush took Miss Verbeek for a Matron in Miss
Fletcher's place, and Miss Phillips in place
of Mrs^r Shields at James' whole health is
poor I remonstrated gently but found it had
all been settled by Miss Shields in her dicta-
torial way. She carried the idea that she
had authority from the "Boards" to make
such change, and talked Mr Jackson in-
to her idea very easily. We were pleased
with Miss Phillips, and wanted her to go
with us, and she seemed to want to go
- but no no she must go to James. We know
that it is a nurse girl and cook that
Mrs Shields needs most, and feared Miss P.
would not fill the position, and that as we
had a pass for ourselves and her to the end
of the R.R. we could hardly give her up.
We liked her so much, and were so much
rejoiced to see some one so different
from Miss Fletcher who had not the
first trait or habit by nature or Grace
for the responsible position of Matron.
We think no better selection could be made

a great crowd of Mexican people gathered together to hear the news-as the train came up concerning Indian depredations, and the Dr seeing the danger & knowing they were to remain there for some time, had the car run on the side track and put the lights out and bolted the doors. Mr J said she thought if the Mexican people had known the children were there they would have been killed. Dr Sutherland here who was Mr Eastmans clerk at Ft. Defiance thinks we cannot do much under Capt Bennett or Mr Keene. We had resolved though that we would not look for our way in every thing, and have determined to adhere to our first plan of going right along doing the best we can. I will write you again soon.

Sincerely, C. J. Perkins.

Have the kind-
ness to say to the
young man
who sent the
clothing and
the reading mat-
ter that the new
ones are
thanks, Willie
with so much
pleasure in
receiving them.
Cocals are sent
the thing I need
J. 13/81
J. 26/81

Dear Mrs. Wainwright,

I could not mail
the letter I wrote you a week ago
as I then could not raise five
dollars in green backs. We can
get very little money except
silver. I could get no draft or
Post-Office order. We are in our
usual health. We realize how
busy you must be. Do not work
too hard. We are very busy. We find
it so hard to take care of the
children's clothing, not having them
under our care all the time. I shall
be so glad when the new building is
ready for use. I hope to hear from
you soon. Sincerely,

Mrs. J. D. Perkins.

Twenty dollars for it in 1878, Organs are cheaper now
this is just as good as when new. Willie is wishing for read-
ing matter, Perhaps some of your young friends would
be willing to send him their papers when read. We are
so busy with the new language that we shall not
have time to write much. I would like some house-
plants. no such thing is here. I brought two ger-
aniums and a fuchsia. they look well. I always
have good success with house plants, Many flowers
reward my care, I would have brought all we had from
Santa Fe, but for the cold weather. When you write me
Miss Phillips was coming, My friends said we must
get such things as we needed there as we could get nothing
here. which I find is true. I brought twenty eight yards
of carpet for sitting room, at one dollar and fifteen
cents per yd. - very good. muslin for curtains for sitting
room bed rooms & dining room. Towels, wash
basins, one bowl and pitcher two lamps
rocking chairs one easy chair and nine other chairs
making enough for the parlors room and our own
Have the kindness to excuse the ugly blot it was an accident and I have
not time to permit. I will send you a list of articles purchased at Santa
Fe. and prices. I am surprised to find nothing here ^{I found as much} as at Albuquerque.
I hope to hear from you soon. Sincerely, Mrs. J. D. Perkins

little to do with. except what I thought:
questioned as to fine children. I was I have the children and no
unfamiliar of this, as they had such an experience of Albuquer
then are no other picture or case like in our room so much
Fort De France. 2-7-1881, Mrs J. D. Perkins

My Dear Mrs Hearnis,

We are finally settled quite com-
fortably at our new home. We arrived last Friday
evening Feb 4th after two days of very easy pleasant
travel from Fort De Wengate. Those horse ambulances are
so very comfortable and strong, one does not feel it a
hardship to make quite a distance by them. Every one
was so kind to us, we were continually the recipients of un-
looked for blessings administered by human hands. un-
til we felt our entire trip had been one pleasant holiday
excursion, the remembrance of which will be lasting. Capt
Bennett met us very kindly indeed quite like a father. he
was familiar with all our doings in Santa Fe. and only
seemed surprised that we could reconcile ourselves to the
change. I found a letter from you awaiting me which I will re-
ply to in full as soon as I can. We brought a good organ ^{from Kansas} one
that we had and did not wish to part with for fear we would
have to do without a long time. We find one here however and
hope you will find it convenient to purchase this one for
Mrs Taylor. It is a Spring & Blake, and faultless It is well
worth one hundred dollars. I paid two hundred and

in vain. Our work among
this this people is great
enough to make ~~anyone~~
front even a trial but our
faith is strong, with God's
blessing we know we shall
succeed, so we take courage
and go forward.

Our greatest want is the new
school house which Captain
Sawyer is pushing to comple-
tion as fast as possible.

Beside our own personal
expenses we need clothing
for girls of all ages includ-
ing shoes and stockings.

Most respectfully yours

For Christ

J. D. Perkins

Mr. J. D. Perkins -
for P. H. M.
and 6.18/81

Fort Defiance, N. M.
March 7th 81.

My Dear Sister, Mrs. Wain.
Ever since
we have been here at our new
home I have been promising
myself an evening spent
in writing to you but yesterday
evening after evening hoping
to be better informed myself
in matters pertaining to this
new Country and the people
who inhabit it.

The Navajo Reservation as
you know is situated partly
in Arizona and partly in
New Mexico, is about one hun-
dred miles from north to south
and about forty miles from

left to west. On this tract of
land twelve thousand indian
men from place to place
keeping pasturage for their
herds of horse, sheep, goats
and mules. It is said that
as a tribe they are rich many
of them owning as many as
five hundred head of horses.
And in all they have forty
thousand. As far as we have
seen them they seem to have
much silver money and
nearly all have bridles
for their horses decorated
with silver worth from twenty
to thirty dollars. Their houses
Hogans are built with poles
cable being thrown above them
are built after the shape of a
bible tent the centre being
nearly high enough to admit

A man standing erect
in one of these hogans fifteen
feet across the center and
many as eight persons will
find a home.

In regard to their religious
beliefs we know but a little
as yet. They are a reticent
people in all matters
pertaining to themselves so
much so that some will refuse
to tell their names, even though
it is important to know them.
Under these circumstances
we do not expect to know much
of their religion until we have
their fullest confidence. I do
believe they know nothing
of God or of the Savior who
died for us all, only as they
have learned from the white
man to take God's holy name

of

Mrs. J. D. Perkins.
Fort Defiance.

Fort Defiance. 3, -22-1881.

Dear Mr. Holmes,

I have just received a letter from Jackson in which he says the Gov must furnish ^{all} the clothing for the children, and that you need send nothing. This is correct perhaps. But we have made a very sincere effort to make these children presentable for school. we have no Gov clothing and even if Capt. Bennett will in future order from Gov he has not done so yet, and will never do so to gratify Dr J. for they are not friends. The Capt has been absent for three weeks at Santa Fe. We are in a hostile country and I think we must not quarrel Capt Bennett as Dr J has done for we are here settled, and at their mercy. The Navajos love Capt Bennett and we can only work upon them as we are encouraged by him. I hope your own faith even is strong that you will help

Mr. D. J. L. L.

98.
2 mile with much difficulty having
shearwater for a number of days.
The horse had continuous diarrhoea
alone, the road and from make
every thing damp and disagreeable.
No further and hills are well,
after further.

we get along without quar-
relling Capt. to Everett. He has no
clothing for children I am sure, I
trust he will order some. But it will be
fall before we get it. So much red tape
is necessary. Now we are here at the ser-
vice of the Board, willing to do your
bidding. Mr. J. says he will have Capt-
B removed if he does not comply with agree-
ment. The Lord, The Board and the Gov
ajust this matter we cannot. we tell you
that we have nothing for the children ^{to wear} but
we have no Power to do more by way of
quarreling any one. We are surprised to
find so many things so painfully different
from what they were represented. Yesterday
was issue day. So many great strong Indians
visited, us. The school room was crowded full. Every
man had a large knife, a revolver and a bow &
Arrow. They all smoked, and talked aloud.

Sincerely Yours,

Mrs. J. D. Perkins,

Mrs. J. D. Perkins
and 6.13/81

Perhaps it would interest you to know how we spend our Sats. and work without a school room. We had more visitors at once today than usual.

This A.M. instead of preparing my breakfast, I prepared my room for visiters. The first came before half past seven. A brother and sister. They live at a distance. I got my simple meal & shared it with them, hid my dishes in the stove, and began. They read 11th John, recited 50 of the Childs Catechism, I showed them pictures, etc. When I went to the other room for Henry Bks. I found Mr V. teaching a young man & his girl wife; they had their baby with them - pray for them. They seem to be nearer the Kingdom than any others here. Four girls came. Three of them sisters - a long walk. The eldest read the 11th John, the others, one repeated the Alphabet, & I read simple lessons. recited nearly 50 of Childs Catechism.

I gave cards, pictures & sweet cakes -
We went to the other room, now full,
& joined in singing & prayer with
them. The two that came first received
two summer jackets the boy having a
thick, ragged coat. Afterwards two
large boys came, one only learning to
read. I gave him a lesson. The other
read the same chapter of John. Looked
at pictures & the Kaleidoscope. I gave them
two papers with pictures & a cake each &
invited them to come again. We have
to put the Gospel book away.

Yesterday Mr P. lamented that
work was standing still. No room for
school, S.S. or preaching. The Lord
smoothed the way. May he bless the
good seed. If you wish to read or let
that to any Miss. Soc. do so. but please
don't print it. I think my only reason
for writing this is to
encourage you. We work as those among
the heathens do. I have many hopes for

Fort Defiance, Arizona. By May 19th 1887.
Mrs. D. D. Putney
ans. 6-13/87-
My Dear Mrs. Haines,

I have not heard from you recently. You are very busy I know, and we must not expect too much. I have written Dr. Kendall at length and will request him to hand you the letter, as I have so little time to write. We are uneasy as to our safety. The Navajos are getting whiskey from the end of the R.R. The Agency is out of supplies and there seems to be good grounds for fear. I send you the Postage on clothing for Willie, and desire to express thanks for your kindness. The Pants, coats, vests are just right. Shirts too I think. Will try them soon. The bill

for gloves I do not have. Please let me know
and I will send the amount as soon as
I send you five dollars. We have not much except silver
possible. Mr Perkins and Willie are well.

My health is not so good. The selling of whisky
to the Navajos makes it very bad for us. I think we
are in great danger. There is no danger of
a general uprising but these bands of a dozen
and more, riding around drunk make it
very trying. We are feeling the worse for the strain
of nerve which we are constantly in. Our work
is highly interesting. We find much to encourage and
cheer as well as some things to annoy and ^{grieve} us.

Sincerely Yours. Mrs. J. D Perkins.

and one also should come as brother
might have been here if long known had not been
I would like to have my order come. indeed I never
or change. He thinks I cannot receive with so much as
the order has been out of my hands. The address

Fort Defiance A.T. Aug 1st 1881.

(This Perkins
Harajon Museum - 8.10/81)

My Dear Mrs. Haines.

Ans. 8.26/81

Your very kind letter concerning Willie.
written July 11th reach me day before yesterday Sat eve, and
hasten to reply by the first mail. The time is now too short to
make plans for Willie against Sept 1st it gives me no time to
get passes. We got him passes last year but it requires some time
many of those who issue passes not being at home at this season.
How sorry I am. If I had the money I would pay it cheerfully.
but I can do nothing now. Our expenses have been enormous,
so much more than we expected then too I have been sick.
We have a youngster now six weeks old. I have been troubled
with ^{acute} Dysentery for three months which has out all the time
hindered my being around, but has caused me much suf-
fering. We were under the necessity of sending to Fort Wingate
for a Physician ^{when the boy was ten days old} who charged \$50.00 for a single

trip. We ~~are~~ must economize, for it requires so much to
live here. Baby is very good. We are not kept awake
three minutes during the night with him. The Indians
take much interest in the baby. They love the little ones, and
old people. My mind was made up concerning Willie going
to school before you wrote me. He should go, if I could afford
the means, nothing prevents now, but time and money I can
not spare him. my heart cries out, He is so dear so near to
me, but I promised to train him for Jesus when he was a babe
and I must not give over that consecration now. He
speaks the Navajo language quite well, and we seem to
need him, but we are compelled to make him do too
much about the school. I am writing Mr. Murray
asking that he be allowed to come at the end of
first quarter, that will give time for getting ready &
off in good shape. I will write again soon. So many
things I must say to you. God has been so merciful to us in our
trials and dangers, sickness, and loneliness, he has been
graciously near, and upholding when distress seemed greatest.

Sincerely Yours. Mrs. J. D. Perkins.